



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250
Tennessee Field Office • P.O. Box 41505 • Nashville, TN 37204-1505
Ag Statistics Hotline: 1-800-727-9540 • www.usda.gov/nass/



Cooperating with Tennessee
Department of Agriculture

Media Contact: Debra Kenerson, 1-800-626-0987
nass-tn@nass.usda.gov

FARMERS REMAIN OPTIMISTIC DESPITE HOT, DRY AUGUST

NASHVILLE, September 12, 2005 - Tennessee farmers are optimistic that a prolonged dry spell during August will not be enough to drastically decrease yield expectations from the previous month. According to a September 1 Yield Survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office, expectations declined for most of the State's row crops from the August 1 forecast, but yields are still projected to be at or above average. At the end of the month, the remnants of Hurricane Katrina brought heavy rains and high winds to much of the Volunteer State, causing some crop damage but generally improving overall conditions. The September forecast, which is based on farmers' expectations of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following results: **Corn**, 124 bushels per acre, down 16 bushels from a year earlier; **Cotton**, 831 pounds per acre, down 69 pounds from last year's record but the second highest yield on record; **Soybeans**, 39 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from a year ago; and **Burley Tobacco**, 1,900 pounds per acre, down 20 pounds from last year.

CORN PRODUCTION DOWN 19 PERCENT

The State's corn production is forecast at 69.4 million bushels, down 19 percent from 2004. Corn yields are expected to average 124 bushels per acre, 4 bushels below last month and 16 bushels lower than last year's record. This forecast, if realized, ranks among the top five historical yields. Acreage for grain is forecast at 560,000 acres, down 55,000 acres from 2004. Mostly hot, dry weather during August caused a reduction in yields, but helped advance maturity. Some fields sustained wind damage from Katrina, but the overall impact was minimal. As of September 4, the crop was rated in good-to-fair condition with harvest for grain underway on a limited basis, and harvest for silage about 75 percent complete.

FARMERS EXPECT RECORD COTTON PRODUCTION

Cotton production is forecast at 1.10 million bales, up 116,000 bales from last year and, if realized, a new State record. The State's cotton yield is forecast at 831 pounds of lint per acre, ranking second only to 2004's record of 900 pounds an acre. Planted area is estimated at 640,000 acres and producers expect to harvest 635,000 acres, up 110,000 from 2004. Dry August weather up until the last week of the month, took its toll on the cotton crop. Rains from the remnants of Hurricane Katrina appear to have come too late to benefit the crop and may have actually caused additional fruit shed. As of September 4, nearly a third of the acreage had open bolls with the crop rated in mostly good condition.

STATE SOYBEAN YIELD DOWN SLIGHTLY

Tennessee's soybean production is forecast at 46.8 million bushels, 3 percent below a year ago. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 39 bushels per acre, down one bushel from last month and down 2 bushels from 2004. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.20 million acres, up 20,000 from last year. August proved to be a very hot and dry month. A large percentage of the State's rainfall for the month came during Katrina's brief stay; consequently, the crop did suffer during August. Harvest is underway on a limited basis, and a third of the crop is already dropping leaves. Recent rainfall may help some of the later planted double-crop beans, but producers are concerned by the large amount of "pod shed" during the hot, dry spell of August. As of September 4, the crop was rated in good-to-fair condition.

(OVER)

BURLEY PRODUCTION DOWN NEARLY A THIRD FROM 2004

Tennessee's burley tobacco growers expect to produce 32.3 million pounds, unchanged from the August forecast but down 30 percent from 2004. Average burley yield is forecast at 1,900 pounds per acre, also unchanged from last month, but down 20 pounds from the previous year. Producers plan to harvest 17,000 acres, down 7,000 acres from a year ago. Dry weather during August caused yield reductions in some areas, but scattered showers in other areas, especially in the eastern portions of the State, helped the crop. As of September 4, burley harvest was 47 percent complete, fire-cured was 53 percent, and air-cured was 45 percent finished, all slightly behind normal. Tennessee's dark fire-cured tobacco yields are forecast at 3,000 pounds, while dark air-cured is forecast to yield 2,700 pounds per acre, down 50 pounds from 2004.

CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, SEPTEMBER 1, 2005, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2004	Indicated 2005	2004	Indicated 2005	2004	Indicated 2005
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
TENNESSEE							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	11,000	9,000
Corn for grain	bu.	615	560	140	124	86,100	69,440
Cotton ¹	lb.	525	635	900	831	984	1,100
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	1,900	1,850	2.50	2.60	4,750	4,810
Peaches	ton	---	---	---	---	1.95	1.90
Soybeans	bu.	1,180	1,200	41.0	39.0	48,380	46,800
Tobacco, All	lb.	30.26	23.26	2,161	2,189	65,381	50,918
Dark fire-cured	lb.	5.72	5.72	3,115	3,000	17,816	17,160
Burley (31)	lb.	24.0	17.0	1,920	1,900	46,080	32,300
Dark air-cured	lb.	.54	.54	2,750	2,700	1,485	1,458
Winter Wheat	bu.	280	170	49.0	60.0	13,720	10,200
UNITED STATES							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	10,419,900	9,837,100
Corn for grain	bu.	73,632	74,318	160.4	143.2	11,807,217	10,638,661
Cotton ¹	lb.	13,057	13,673	855	782	23,251	22,282
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	40,209	39,605	2.05	1.92	82,391	76,068
Peaches	ton	---	---	---	---	1,307.1	1,233.9
Soybeans	bu.	73,958	72,184	42.5	39.6	3,140,996	2,856,449
Tobacco, All	lb.	408,040	307,010	2,155	2,099	879,227	644,278
Dark fire-cured	lb.	11.73	12.47	3,167	3,186	37,151	39,725
Burley (31)	lb.	153.15	105.30	1,908	1,826	292,172	192,285
Dark air-cured	lb.	4.26	4.04	2,799	2,787	11,922	11,258
Winter Wheat	bu.	34,462	34,271	43.5	44.4	1,499,434	1,520,484

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

##

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at www.usda.gov/nass